SCAG GIS SERVICES news

SCAG GIS Journal

Welcome to the first edition e-newsletter of the SCAG GIS Services Program. The purpose of this e-newsletter is to communicate with program participants about what's happening with the GIS Services Program as well as what's coming up in the near future. We hope the e-newsletter will be informative and help you maximize the benefits of GIS technology through this program.
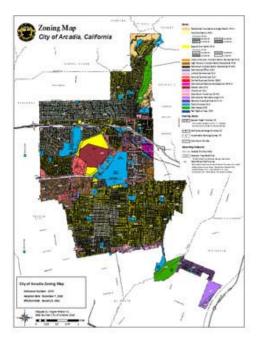
Background
SCAG GIS Services Program was started in 2010 and is a free service to SCAG member agencies. Currently, 70 local jurisdictions are Program participants. Through this program, SCAG GIS staff assist member agencies with GIS projects which helps "fill-in-the gaps" for local jurisdictions during these difficult fiscal times. The program has also given SCAG staff the opportunity to meet, discuss, and customize GIS services for the 70 participants. Customized services involve creating desktop and web applications with local jurisdiction data, converting non-spatial data into a GIS format, day-to-day GIS problem solving, and GIS trainings at several venues across the region including Arcadia, Calexico, Fontana, Indio, Los Angeles, and Ventura. Participants appreciate SCAG's leadership in promoting GIS technology, data sharing and updating, and spatial data standardization, as well as the effort to establish stronger relationships and collaboration between SCAG and local jurisdictions regionwide.

Positive impacts include GIS training of over 100 participants that range from planning interns to Planning Directors and American Planning Association Certification Maintenance credits. Moreover, participants have seen firsthand the benefits GIS technologies and data sharing have brought to their jurisdictions.

Local Accomplishments
In this e-newsletter, we highlight the Cities of Arcadia, Indio, and La Mirada.

- For Arcadia, SCAG staff helped the City with day-to-day GIS trouble shooting in which SCAG staff demonstrated efficient ways to modify spatial data.

- In Indio, SCAG staff customized introductory GIS training for eight of the city's employees to accommodate the need of GIS knowledge learning since the city experienced labor force reduction of its GIS staff.

- With La Mirada, SCAG staff helped update the City zoning data and integrated it with the city's HDL data (assessor information) for easy reference.

We would also like to welcome the cities of Coachella, Lake Forest and West Covina as participants. SCAG looks forward to assisting these cities with customized GIS projects.

Upcoming Events
Over the next few months, SCAG GIS Service will host GIS trainings, launch a data Geoportal, and develop an interactive web-based application.

- The GIS trainings will be at the Introductory and Advanced levels. The Introductory training will be given at various locations throughout the region and the Advanced training will be held at SCAG's downtown Los Angeles office.

- The SCAG GIS data Geoportal site is intended for more efficient sharing of GIS data. The interactive web-based mapping application will enable a local jurisdiction to view, edit, and update parcel-based land use. It is anticipated to further enhance our local outreach in growth forecast and land use information exchange between SCAG and local jurisdictions.

We are pleased to be able to provide extended GIS support services to all our member jurisdictions. For more information about this effort, contact Javier Aguilar at (213) 236-1845 or aguilar@scag.ca.gov.

Follow us on Fa Tw Bi and at www.scag.ca.gov.

SCAG GIS Services is a project of
Southern California Association of Governments

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